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DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

Vol. X No. 4 · February 17th 1961 · Price: 15 Pf, 5c, 3d.

OPEN LETTER

Refugees from the Hitler terror, now citizens of the German Democratic Republic, have addressed the following letter to Members of Parliament and members of local government bodies in those parts of Britain where West German troops may soon be stationed.

We, the undersigned, are citizens of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). During Hitler's Third Reich we were fortunate enough to find refuge in Britain. Many of us went with you through the "Blitz" in 1940. We vividly remember the distress and wanton destruction caused by the so-called secret weapons V 1 and V 2. Some of us had the honour of serving in the British forces during the war. That was a short 15 years ago.

Our letter today is prompted by the alarming news that units of the Bundeswehr are to receive bases and training facilities in Britain. For a long time we, like most of our compatriots, have been deeply disturbed by the arrogant character of official West German policy. Prominent persons, responsible for some of the most horrible features of the Nazi regime, have occupied (Oberlaender) or still occupy (Globke) key positions in the Bonn cabinet. Militarism is resurgent. Every one of the 140 generals commanding the West German Bundeswehr today held a high post in the Nazi Wehrmacht. No less than 30 of them were generals under Hitler. They helped to plan and carry out each and every Nazi invasion during the Second World War. Nevertheless 17 of them hold high offices in NATO. General Speidel commands NATO ground forces in Central Europe. General Heusinger is about to take up the key post of Chairman of the NATO Military Committee in Washington.

Now the West German army led by such men is to be given bases and training grounds in your country. Frankly, we fail to understand a policy which hands over to the Bundeswehr in peace-time what the Wehrmacht was unable to obtain in war. May we tell you that public opinion in both German states looks upon such a measure with dismay and anxiety. No good can come of it when a German army under its old generals is allowed to expand, to invade other countries and to prepare for war.

At such a critical juncture we wish to assure you — and through you the British nation — that the German Democratic Republic condemns and opposes the use of German troops on foreign territory and demands that the agreement to station units of the Bundeswehr in Great Britain be dissolved without delay.

On behalf of 126 people who found refuge in Great Britain between 1933 and 1945.

Professor Heinz Kamnitzer Professor Ernst Hermann Meyer Heinrich Eggebrecht

M. P.s Protest Wehrmacht Plans

Labour M.P.s protested in the British House of Commons on February 8th at plans to provide training bases for the Wehrmacht in various parts of Britain.

In reply to a question, Mr Harold Watkinson, Defence Minister, stated that discussions would shortly be held between the West German and British Governments on training facilities for the Wehrmacht in Britain.

Mr Anthony Greenwood, (Lab., Rossendale), stated amidst cheers: "Most people in this country will be shocked by your answer. Is there any hope of the talks breaking down, or are you determined to go down in history as the man who succeeded where Hitler failed, and put German troops on British soil?"

Mr Marcus Lipton, (Lab., Brixton) asked: "Would it not be much more sensible, if the Germans have not enough room to train their troops, to bring the British forces back from Germany? This is going to cause grave disquiet, if not disgust, among many good British citizens."

Mr Frank Allaun (Lab., Salford East) asked Mr Watkinson for two "very reasonable" undertakings: that no high-ranking former nazi officers should be allowed in Britain, and that no training should be given in the use of missiles or nuclear weapons.

The Defence Minister refused to give such an undertaking, and in reply to other questions stated that the best way to avoid another war was to integrate the West German forces in NATO.

MORE U-BOATS THAN HITLER

War Criminal Advises on West German Sub Fleet

The nazi admirals who run the West German Navy plan the construction of a huge new fleet of U-boats, the well-informed West German magazine "Spiegel" reported on February 1st. Present plans call for the construction of between 90 and 140 vessels; at the outbreak of World War Two, the German Navy had about 55 U-boats.

The magazine reported that advice on the building of the new U-boat fleet is being given by retired Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz. Doenitz was supreme commander of Hitler's navy, and was named by Hitler as his successor. The Nuremberg Tribunal found him guilty of war crimes and offences against peace, and sentenced him to ten years imprisonment.

The plan for the new U-boat fleet has actually been drafted by Counter-Admiral Karl-Adolf Zenker. Like all of West Germany's top commanders, Zenker served as a top officer in the nazi forces. Zenker will take the post of Inspector General of the West German Navy this summer. He has repeatedly made public statements that there was no blot on the escutcheon of the nazi navy, and that Grand Admirals Doenitz and Raeder had been unjustly convicted by the Nuremberg Tribunal.

In a long historical study of the importance of the submarine arm in German naval history, the magazine "Spiegel" stated:

"For the third time in German naval history an attempt is being made, after many years of delay, to make the U-boat the main striking weapon.

"The same thing happened under the Kaiser, under the National Socialist regime, and today in the Bonn Republic. The difference is that Kaiser Wilhelm II and Hitler began the change-over to submarines after the outbreak of the two world wars; this time the change-over is starting while we are still at peace.

"Grand Admiral Tirpitz, creator of the German High Sea Fleet, dismissed the first U-boats as 'playthings'... Later, after the legendary deeds of 'U 9', the Admiralty recognised the value of the new weapon... During World War One German U-boats sank 13 million brutto register tons of merchant shipping and 83 war ships...

"Under Hitler the tragedy of the wrong sort of naval armament was repeated . . . Once again the main point in the naval construction programme was the building of heavy surface units. Once again, war came before the fleet was ready. Once again the heroism of a single officer, the commander of 'U 47', helped to restore to favour the discarded U-boat arm...

"From now on, submarine construction had priority; U-boats sank 3000 merchant vessels and nearly 200 warships. But as in the case of World War One, valuable years had been lost, and towards the end of the war the U-boat was beginning to be regarded as obsolete.

"Paradoxically, Doenitz is partly responsible for the fact that it took 15 years after 1945 for Bonn's naval strategists to remember the value of the invisible weapon... After the war Doenitz and his predecessor Raeder were sent to Spandau Prison for ten years, and while the two last Grand Admirals of the German Navy were still in jail, the flexible men of Bonn were beginning to build a new Federal Navy.

"This overlap between the liquidation of the old navy and the formation of the new navy led to the so-called 'Problem of the Grand Admirals'.

"The 'democrats on probation' established in Bonn shuddered when they heard the name of Doenitz, but for the boys in naval blue he was and remained a man of honour, their Grand Admiral."

(The "Spiegel" then gave a number of examples of friction between old nazi naval officers who remained "true to their old traditions', and Bonn politicians who found it inexpedient to be so openly pro-nazi.)

"By November 1960, however, Vice Admiral Ruge, Inspector of the Federal Navy, was able to make a public speech, uncontradicted by the Minister of Defence, describing Grand Admiral Raeder as 'a comrade who is an example to us in his human and military attitude...'

"The 'Problem of the Grand Admirals' has thus been solved. This has perhaps not been done in the sense dreamed of by the parliamentarians in the early years of the Federal Republic; but it has certainly been solved in a manner satisfactory to the officers corps of the navy.

"At the same time the quiet rehabilitation of the Grand Admirals has opened the door for a new development in the field of armaments; for as long as Hitler's successor Doenitz was outlawed, the U-boat arm was also suspect. When the Federal Republic joined NATO, Chancellor Adenauer, taking into consideration the blockade nightmares of the British, renounced the construction of U-boats with a displacement of more than 350 tons.

"The programme for the Federal Navy called for about 200 ships, 24,000 men and a dozen admirals. Large destroyers were planned as the core of this navy: Federal Defence Minister Strauss, in internal conferences, showed his interest in larger units which could be equipped with rockets...

"Then Minister Strauss's interest was suddenly awakened by the spectacular developments in submarine building made by the Americans. The laying down of destroyers was stopped: four vessels have already been ordered, but orders for the other eight planned were put on ice.

"Since for the price of one modern rocket-destroyer (about 250 million marks) it is possible to build at least 10 U-boats of the present type, this means that putting eight destroyers on ice will make it possible to build 80 U-boats, in addition to the 12 which had been planned in any case, of which a number are already in construction. The first submarine crews are already being trained on the raised and re-fitted (nazi) U-boats 'Hai' and 'Hecht'...

"Other plans, still being studied by the Federal Defence Ministry, call for the construction of a fleet of about 140 U-boats of a simplified type.

"Federal Defence Minister Strauss has not, as yet, made a final decision; he is still waiting for the final blueprints. It appears certain, however, that the conversion of the Federal Navy to U-boats will start this year.

"In this situation, Bonn naval strategists seek advice wherever they can find it: in November 1960 they had their first meeting with the greatest living expert in conventional U-boat warfare — Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz."

THE GLOBKE STORY
– LATEST INSTALMENT

Past crimes appeared to be slowly catching up this month with Dr Hans Globke, most prominent war criminal in the West German administration. Dr Globke, who helped to write Hitler's racial legislation, and served in a key post in the nazi Ministry of the Interior throughout the war, is today State Secretary in the West German Government, and personal assistant to Chancellor Adenauer.

It has been known for many years that Globke played a part in Hitler's campaign to liquidate the Jews, but full details only became available in July 1960, when Globke's old personal file was unearthed amongst unsorted nazi documents in the archives of the German Democratic Republic. (For details of Globke's career see GERMAN REPORT dated September 2nd 1960, copies of which can be sent to readers interested.)

Since the publication of this file, pressure has increased both in West Germany and abroad for Globke to be brought to trial, or at the very least to be removed from his post, and this pressure is slowly beginning to bear fruit.

In late January the Public Prosecutor's office in Hesse, West Germany, announced that an official investigation was being opened of Globke's war-time activities, with particular regard to allegations that he had been personally responsible for the deportation and liquidation of many thousands of Greek Jews from occupied Salonika. A few days later, two legal officials from the German Democratic Republic were received by Dr Bauer, Chief Public Prosecutor of Hesse, and they handed him certified copies of the most important incriminating documents from Dr Globke's file.

When the weekly magazine "Welt-bild" of Wiesbaden, in Hesse, announced that it would publish photostats of these documents, Dr Globke applied to Wiesbaden Court for a court order restraining the magazine from publishing them, although he could not contest the authenticity of the documents. The court, in an almost unprecedented display of civil courage, refused to comply with Globke's application. The court ruled that the documents implicating Globke in nazi crimes were "documents of historical value". In his application for the suppression of the documents Globke had cited witnesses to support his claim that he only took part in the drafting of nazi legislation "in order to help the Jews". The court ruled that since the witnesses named had themselves worked in the nazi Ministry of the Interior with Globke, their testimony must be regarded as "prejudiced and of little material value".

On January 31st, the official Press Service of the Social Democratic Party, which had hitherto paid little attention to the Globke case, recommended Globke to resign his post as State Secretary until the courts had fully investigated the charges made against him.

On February 5th the West German news agency DPA reported from Jerusalem that Adolf Eichmann, awaiting trial in Israel for his part in the nazi murder of the Jews, had been asked to testify on the part played by Globke. "Eichmann refused any information, and referred to specific instructions he had received from his (West German) lawyer Dr Servatius", the news agency reported.

It may be recalled that on June 10th 1960, GERMAN REPORT stated: "Government circles in Bonn feared that if Eichmann could not be silenced in time he would not only give damning evidence about the war-time role of State Secretary Globke, but also that he would unmask the leading West Germans who had helped him to leave Germany undetected."

Footnote: On February 6th, research in the files of the registry office at Saarbruecken brought to light a circular letter signed by Globke on June 15th 1944. This circular called upon all registry offices to be particularly careful in their enquiries into "racial fitness" if a German citizen wished to marry a woman from occupied Czechoslovakia. "In such cases, a photograph of the bride in a bathing costume must be submitted to the registry office", Globke's circular stated. "If no bathing costume is available, I request that the photograph should show the applicant unclothed, and this photograph should be attached to the file in a closed envelope."

Strauss Plans Dictatorship

The West German Minister of Defence, Franz-Josef Strauss, has drawn up plans for dictatorial rule in West Germany, the leading West German newspaper "Die Welt" reported on January 30th.

The newspaper reported that Herr Strauss had drawn up plans for an amendment to the West German Constitution which would provide for the establishment of a "National Leadership Staff", which would rule with dictatorial powers and without parliament "in case of emergency". This National Leadership Staff should consist of Chancellor Adenauer; Minister Strauss; Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of the Interior and former nazi storm trooper, and two or three other ministers.

Political observers believed that Minister Strauss had speeded up his plans following the recent strike in Belgium. If large scale strikes should break out at a future date in West Germany, the National Leadership Staff could declare a "state of emergency" and rule by martial law.

In an interview with the "Frankfurter Allgemeine" on January 31st, Strauss called for the intensification of the cold war by means of a blockade of the socialist countries. The paper stated:

"Strauss said that economic policy vis-a-vis the eastern block could be made into a flexible weapon of the cold war. The Communists, he said, were very sensitive to economic counter-measures; for (West) Berlin the use of stepped-up economic sanctions against the powers of illiberty would be more effective than a burst of machine-gun fire."

Nazi Victims Threat

Interior Minister Gerhard Schroeder of West Germany, onetime Nazi Party member and storm trooper, announced that legal measures to prohibit the Association of Persecutees of the Nazis (VVN) are being pushed. Schroeder also said that the Bonn Government is working to combat or forbid a long list of other organisations which he called communist or communist-influenced. They include the organisations of one-time inmates of Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, many peace and nuclear disarmament groups and several newspapers.

East & West Meet for Peace

680 visitors from West Germany and guests from Britain, the USA, the USSR, France and seven other countries joined with 260 representatives from all walks of GDR life to discuss ways of achieving peace and disarmament in a congress held in Weimar (GDR) on January 28th and 29th.

The Congress, marked by a spirit of frankness and criticism, agreed that advocates of peace in both parts of Germany must keep in contact despite all obstacles erected by the West German Government. Many speakers compared the friendly atmosphere in Weimar with the lynch mob which had gathered in Marburg, West Germany, two weeks earlier to prevent People's Chamber Chairman Johannes Dieckmann from speaking to students.

In a keynote address, Professor Max Steenbeck, director of the atomic energy plant being constructed in the GDR, described from the standpoint of a scientist what damage a single atomic weapon could bring about.

"Preventing an atomic war is easier the fewer the countries are which possess these weapons... I should prefer to see the present Federal Republic as the very last country of all to join this group...

"The Federal Republic does not want to start a large war, naturally — nor did Hitler want to start a large war in 1939 when he attacked Poland; but it does hope to achieve its goals — in regard to the GDR for example — with a policy of strength based on a great weight of military power, so that the world will let it get away with its actions just to avoid getting involved in a large war. But in today's world this path would lead directly to a catastrophe."

The next speaker was Professor Kurt Groebe, a medical scientist from Hamburg in West Germany. "I came here without fear," he said. "It seems however that citizens of the GDR travelling to the Federal Republic cannot always do so without fear. I am thinking of People's Chamber President Dieckmann. Here, I am not afraid that windows will be shattered while I speak, or that cries like 'Hang him' or 'Throw him out' will interrupt my speech...

"...I came here to comment on ways for us in the Federal Republic and you in the GDR to come closer together. And I believe this can come about essentially only through conferences like this one, and through conferences in the Federal Republic, although I fear that you may be regarded as 'Communist functionaries' and prevented from entering. The trip here from the Federal Republic was forbidden, although there is no legal justification for such a measure. That is just a little footnote to the problem of 'freedom'!"

(As a result of Professor Groebe's trip to Weimar and his speech there he was expelled from the Social Democratic Party in West Germany.)

Professor Luedtke of Munich, West Germany, Honorary Chairman of the "Liga Universalis Christiana" and a leader in Christian circles for over 60 years, said, "Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I request all of you to carry the spirit which moves you here to all families, to all German cities, to all villages, and when we begin to have congresses for peace and disarmament after this example here, then they must be based on a real Christianity of deeds, and we shall try to provide the clergymen and the churches an example and to tell them: how terrible it is that you are not doing what you should as churches and clergymen! You should be the ones doing this work!"

Later in the Congress Hans Teschner, a miner from Bochum in West Germany, related how the West German border control authorities had asked him why he was going to East Germany. "I answered that I had to take care of some family affairs. And am I not doing just that when I discuss peace and understanding with others who want the same thing?"

In summing up the two days of discussion, Professor Werner Hartke, President of the GDR's German Academy of Sciences, said:

"Naturally we cannot say that we agreed on all questions. But I think I can say that we are united on certain basic points.

"1. It has been shown that we can talk together — and that we must talk together.

"2. It has been shown clearly that there is agreement about German disarmament and German mutual understanding, which is approved and can be achieved by the citizens of both German states.

"It has been shown clearly that rearmament cannot lead to reunification. Both peace and reunification can only be achieved by German disarmament and German mutual understanding.

"3. We all reached agreement that peace will not fall into our laps, but must be won by our own deeds, by our activity, by our own cooperation. And I believe that everyone who came here... has changed a little, that everyone has learned something new. We especially hope that this meeting is only a beginning, that the discussions are multiplied in number, that we may soon be the guests in the Federal Republic of those people who are here today from the Federal Republic as our guests. Marburg cannot be repeated, but Weimar must be repeated — not only here, but also there."

16,000 Amnestied in GDR

A sweeping amnesty proclaimed last autumn resulted in the release of 16,000 prisoners from jails in the GDR before their sentences were completed, it was announced in East Berlin on February 7th. All were helped in getting jobs and finding a useful place in society again.

Fewer jail sentences should be employed in future, the announcement added. Whenever possible in the case of lesser crimes, wrongdoers should receive punishments like parole terms and public censure. Their colleagues at work should help them in overcoming their weaknesses.

Frau Hilde Benjamin, Minister of Justice, pointed out in a recent interview that the crime rate in the GDR had sunk steadily to a point only one quarter that of West Germany. Major crimes have almost completely disappeared, there are no professional criminals left and from 80% to 90% of all jail terms are for less than one year.

Jailed Then - Jailed Now

The West German journalist Peter Meter, editor of a progressive newspaper called "Rheinische Stimme", was sentenced in Cologne to 18 months in prison as well as police supervision and loss of the right to vote for five years on February 6th. The charge was "conspiracy with intent to endanger the state". Herr Meter had been imprisoned by the nazis for eleven and a half years on similar charges.

Three of his colleagues on the newspaper, which had opposed West German atomic rearmament and advocated peaceful negotiations with the GDR, received prison sentences of 17, 9 and 7 months.

"Refugees" from Adenauer's Germany

By Alan Winnington

She looked anything but a refugee, with her smart cloche hat, nylon fur coat and pin-point shoes. But she was a "refugee" twice — first to the west and then back to the east.

There is constant passage back and forth across the border which cuts Germany into two, and two-thirds of the refugees from Adenauer's Golden West are people who went there from the German Democratic Republic and then discovered their mistake.

"We were mad to go there in the first place," said Frau Marion A---- (please don't print my name). "But you know how it is: petty irritations, minor bureaucracy, sometimes shortages of things.

"Actually we did not know how well off we were here." She dabbed her eyes. "We had a nice flat, the rent was only 35 marks monthly, and my husband was well paid. He's a construction engineer.

"He was convinced that in West Germany, technicians only had to name their price. Over here in the GDR we still had nearly another year to wait for a car. He saw us over there in a new flat with a Mercedes and all the things we saw on our television. So in 1957 we walked out of our home and went to West Germany."

This conversation was taking place in Barby Castle, which is one of the seven "Homecomers' Hostels" in the GDR. Last year Barby received 17,000 re-settlers from West Germany, found them jobs and homes in the GDR and sent them off to begin a new life, mostly from where they had left off.

In West Germany, Frau A---- said, things had not been at all as they had been painted. They had trouble with officials because they lacked documents and were well in debt before Herr A---- got a job.

"Then there was the rent. We could get nothing under 150 marks monthly. We were cheated by the hire purchase people and all ordinary things are far more expensive than they are here."

She gave examples which I checked with other re-settlers: coal between 30 and 40 marks monthly instead of 10 in the GDR; bread 1 mark 20 pfennigs a loaf instead of 76 pfennigs; electricity 40 pfennigs a unit instead of eight; potatoes 20 pfennigs compared with five.

"I scarcely saw my husband. He worked till late every night to make enough to live and pay something off our debts. Never mind a Mercedes or even a Volkswagen. We talked of coming back but couldn't face the shame. Then he fell ill, lost his job and that was the end.

Herr Schiller meets the resettlement commission

"He is still sick, so now I'm here to prepare the way for him to join me as soon as possible. Things are not perfect here but they're heaven compared with over there. You can never relax."

Frau A---- had just been interviewed by the small Resettlement Commission which daily meets new arrivals and discusses jobs and homes. Nobody could sit through a session of the commission without contrasting the consideration they were now meeting with the cold, cash-and-carry society they had left.

Here is Herr Schiller, who left the GDR in 1950 and had a restaurant in West Germany. "With my wife alive, we could just manage, what with the taxes on everything, even on having a refrigerator. I simply couldn't manage by myself.

"My daughter in the GDR wrote and said 'Come home', you'll be alright. So I left the restaurant to pay my debts and came. At my age there's not much I can do but be a waiter.

There were no questions about why he had left, no lecture; only: "Waiter or barman can be done at once. Naturally we cannot yet offer you a job as manager. In Halle, you said? And you will stay with your daughter. Good luck, Herr Schiller!"

Here is Herr Duering, 40, with wife and three children, newcomers to the GDR, though his wife's father lives here.

Duering had been a photo-engraver but could get no work, lost his flat and ended up doing casual work on a farm and living in a hovel of 20 square yards.

Looking every inch a refugee as he walked out of the commission, he was fixed up with a job in Leipzig as a photo-engraver, sure of a flat and had a credit of 2,000 marks to set up home.

I talked to him outside. "There are plenty like me in West Germany," he said. "Failures like me, I suppose, though I'm a good engraver. Some would like to come here but don't know how. Others can't make up their minds to start again. And then, there's a lot of anti-Communist propaganda.

"We came because my wife's father wrote to us and said there were jobs

for all here, and rents were fixed. Prices are lower too and that's important when you've got three youngsters to feed."

Among the young people at Barby, Christa G----, blonde and lovely, was always surrounded by young men. Taken by her parents to West Germany three years ago at the age of 17, she worked as a waitress — the same job as she did in the GDR.

"But what a difference! Oh, I earned good money, but only by working from eleven in the morning till two or three the next morning. No time for fun. I got homesick for Stendal and my friends. Here you do a day's work for a day's pay and it's better."

The young men round Christa, and those in the canteen, cinema, or playing in the grounds, were mostly refugees from conscription in the Bundeswehr. They tend to be brash, very much on the defensive, anxious to avoid any sign of softness.

It's not easy to get them to state their reasons for leaving West Germany. Some had gone there from the GDR and now, faced with their call-up, realised what it meant.

As Wilhelm Barenburg said: "I went for fun, to get away from home and have a good time. But I've no intention of fighting my own people, and that's what Adenauer wants his army for."

Others, who had always lived in West Germany, left their families, with or without permission, when their call-up papers came. Several of these said that they would arrange for their families to join them.

There are always between 400 and 500 re-settlers in Barby Castle. They arrive at the frontier by Inter-Zonal train, on foot or by hitch-hiking. A handful come in cars, bought by selling their property.

During the period it takes to find them suitable jobs and homes, averaging two weeks, they live better than I would have imagined. Food is good and plentiful, there is constant entertainment, pocket money of 50 marks on arrival and one mark a day. Each Tuesday and Thursday groups leave to start their new life in the GDR.

Barby Castle is one of the fantastic anomalies of Germany divided. Most of those who pass though it and the other six hostels are victims of the cynical western propaganda machine which promises GDR citizens heaven in West Germany, counts the heads (sometimes twice) of those who fall for it and then abandons them.

Everybody hears of the "people running away from Communism", but in Barby you can hear what happens to them in the "free-for-all" world and why they come running back.

That people having thrown up everything once, then do it again to return to the security and human relations they realise they should never have left speaks more clearly for the GDR than the propaganda barrage from Bonn can speak against it.

Christa and friends (see above)

Pipeline Pact

Poland's share of the huge new international oil pipeline soon to cross its territory will largely use pipes made in Democratic Germany, according to an agreement between the two countries signed on January 18th. The 2500-mile long artery will supply the two countries with petroleum from oilfields near Kuibyshev in the Soviet Union.

The final stretch of pipeline, connecting the Polish refining centre at Plock northwest of Warsaw and the GDR refineries at Schwedt on the Oder River will use GDR piping exclusively, and the stretch from the Soviet border to Plock will be partially constructed with GDR pipes. The two refineries are now being built.

A factory in Dresden is now engaged in making special electric motors for the pumping stations, which will be spaced at 30—60 mile intervals along the route. These motors and other equipment are fully automatic, so that only one employee need stay on duty at each station. They are also being constructed in a newly-developed way which rules out the danger of explosions from the gases which emanate from petroleum.

Under the new agreement, the GDR is lending Poland 57,825,000 rubles to cover expenses of the pipes, motors and construction costs on Polish territory. Poland will repay this sum with 1.5% interest over a period of ten years from the time when oil starts flowing; for this purpose it will use the money paid by the GDR for the transport of the Soviet oil over its territory. Democratic Germany expects to receive 5 million tons of oil a year, which will be the basis of a new branch of its chemical industry.

Sudan Dig

A group of scientists from Democratic Germany, working on excavations in Sudan for the second year, has now uncovered new remains of the little-known ancient African civilisation named Meroite. The scientists are led by Prof Hintze of East Berlin's Humboldt University and are supported by the governments of Sudan and the German Democratic Republic.

The excavations at a place called Musawwarat el Sufra show evidence of settlements lasting over 1000 years. They include two temples, one with interesting relief sculptures, a large pear-shaped surrounding wall, numerous graves and a sepulchre.

PLAN REPORT FOR 1960

Industrial production in Democratic Germany in 1960 rose by over 8% according to the official figures published on February 3rd. Sample figures on production in both heavy industry and consumer goods are given in the table on this page; here are some other highlights from the plan report of 1960:

Industry

The economic plan for 1960 was met 100.4%. Production plans were exceeded for pig iron, rolled steel, potash products, dederon (like nylon), cars, motor scooters, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and many other items; the plan was not met for some products including sulphuric acid, cement, harvester combines and sewing machines.

For the first time, the 40,000,000,000 kilowatt hour level in electric energy was surpassed — this was twice the 1950 level and almost three times the 1936 level. Average industrial wages rose by 5%; prices were stable.

Construction

Although building construction went up 11% over 1959, home construction failed to come up to the plan — partly because of the emphasis on agricultural construction connected with the change-over to cooperative farming.

A total of 80,500 new flats and homes were completed in 1960 — more than in 1959 but rather less than planned. 39% of the new buildings were built with pre-fabricated parts.

On the farms, 430,000 head of cattle and 812,000 hogs received new quarters. 833 modern milking sheds were also built.

Agriculture

Crop yields went up in all major grain crops. As for animal husbandry, the sharpest gains were in poultry raising (66%) and egg production (22%); the increase in cows and milk production was not so high as planned, partly as a delayed result of the drought of 1959.

Transportation

In November 1960 the railroads carried 21.3 million tons of freight, more than any month since 1945. For the year as a whole they carried 522 million tons, as compared with 513.4 million in 1959. There were some delays because of the slowness of many factories in unloading.

The merchant fleet of the GDR grew from 179,900 to 245,400 dead weight tons in 1960. The GDR's first passenger liner was used by 9000 trade unionists for fortnightly cruises in the Baltic and Mediterranean.

Foreign and Inter-German Trade

Trade with socialist countries went up 4% and with western or newly-developed countries 24% in 1960. Some big trade increases: with Indonesia — 80%; Burma — 140%; Ceylon — 85%; Iraq — 43%; trade with Guinea was three times as high as in 1959, and with Cuba 14 times.

Government trade agreements were concluded for the first time with Morocco, Tunisia and Cambodia.

Trade with West Germany went down in 1959 because of the planned embargo on trade with the GDR. The cancellation of the trade agreement was, however, halted at the last minute by West Germany.

Commodity Sales in the GDR

Each person in the GDR bought 170 marks worth of goods more than in 1959; that was enough for a suit or overcoat, a good vacuum cleaner or about 3 to 5 months rent.

People ate 3% more meat, 6% more fish, 11% more cocoa and cocoa products and 18% more eggs than in 1959. They also drank 36% more coffee, 32% more wine and champagne and smoked 9% more cigars.

Other increases in supply over 1959 included: washing machines — 16%; vacuum cleaners — 18%; mixers — 69%; refrigerators — 91%; TV sets — 38%. These figures vary from production figures because there were large imports of such items, especially from Czechoslovakia.

The number of TV set owners jumped from 593,000 to 1,050,000 in 1960.

A big change was made in merchandising. The number of self-service shops and restaurants rose from 7240 to 13,000.

Education and Culture

81% of all children finishing their 8th school year went on to a ninth year, as compared with 65% the year before. By 1964, this figure should reach 100%.

The number of village clubs (for meetings and cultural events, libraries, films, etc.) went up from 1500 to over 5000 by the end of 1960; and "village academies" — where farmers can visit evening classes — went up from 1700 to 3000.

There were 2.3 million public library members by the end of 1960 (13.4% of the population).

In 1960 a total of 102,000 young men and women were studying at universities and other institutes of university level (25,000 studied technical scientific subject; pedagogics 22,000; medicine 12,000; mathematics and natural sciences 8000, agriculture and veterinary medicine 9000).

The number of students was comparatively much higher than in West Germany; 59 students per 10,000 population in the GDR: 36 students per 10,000 population in West Germany.

Statistics from 1960 Report

Product and Unit	1950	1955	1959	1960
Electric Power (mill. kwh)	19,000	28,700	37,200	40,300
Pig iron (1000 tons)	337	1,516	1,889	1,995
Ingot steel (1000 tons)	999	2,507	3,207	3,337
Hot rolled steel (1000 tons)	781	1,884	2,487	2,308
Cement (1000 tons)	1,412	2,971	4,205	5,032
Sulphuric acid (1000 tons)	245	483	562	596
Harvester Combines (units)	000	1,053	879	1,972
TV sets (thousand units)	000	38	290	408
Refrigerators (thousand units)	1	...	86	138
Sewing machines (thousand units)	79	215	263	262
Washing machines (thousand units)	1	18	107	132
Vacuum cleaners (thousand units)	14	163	326	431
Ladies' stockings — nylon type (1000 pair)	000	26,500	41,700	47,435

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Looking through my incoming mail the other day, I took by chance a closer look at the envelope on a letter from the United States. It bore a 4-cent commemorative stamp paying tribute to famous Polish musician Paderewski, who was first Prime Minister of the Polish Republic for a short period after the First World War. What caught my attention was not the stamp, but the official U. S. Post Office "First Day Cover", one of those sometimes issued in connection with commemorative stamps. This bore another picture of Paderewski, but the interesting point about it was the small outline map of Poland beneath the portrait: this showed the Oder-Neisse line as the western frontier of Poland. Now it might not seem surprising for a map to show the frontiers of a country as they really are; but although the United States agreed in 1945 at Potsdam to the fixing of the Oder-Neisse line as the frontier between Poland and Germany, and though this line is in fact the frontier, American governments since 1945 have always been careful not to give this frontier formal recognition.

Bonn Spin

West German Government circles are liable to go into a flat spin when they see the Paderewski cover and I confidently expect them to file an official complaint in Washington; they complained recently to the British Foreign Office because the respected British "Times" Atlas dared to show the frontiers as they really are, instead of allocating the western one-third of Poland to the German revanchists.

The Paderewski commemorative is one of a series dedicated by the United States Post Office to an odd and arbitrary collection of figures given the title of "Champion of Liberty". Paderewski really has some claim to this title, since he played a part in the re-establishment of Poland as an independent nation after World War One, but another stamp in the series commemorates Finnish Field Marshal Mannerheim, whose main claim to fame is that he was one of Hitler's truest allies in World War Two.

Green Shoes

Two muted cheers for Mr Milton Bracker, correspondent of the "New York Times", who wrote for his paper on February 7th one of those routine pieces of reporting on divided Berlin. You have probably seen the sort of thing often enough — scurrying, lively, neon-lit West Berlin, and down-at-the-heel East Berlin. Mr Bracker gets my muted cheers because after repeating most of the old clichés he does manage to state: "In East Berlin the pastry happens to be as rich as in the West. And the whipped cream is as generous and as delicious."

Then he goes on, rather mysteriously: "In the East... faces are not depressed or strained, but the tone of everything is subdued — like the olive grays and browns of the shoes." If I ever have the privilege of meeting Mr Bracker, I shall be sure to look at his shoes: I shall be very disappointed if they are not bright green.

From Tractors to Dolls

There seems to be an impression in some western countries that people in the Socialist countries get nothing to read except rather grim novels about young men and women driving tractors and cranes, with the odd volume of Dickens thrown in for variety.

This idea is rather severely dented by taking a look at any bookshop between Berlin and Hanoi, and I should just like to say a word about a big anthology of humour from around the world just published in East Berlin. The compilers of the anthology have really cast their nets wide, and dragged in short stories and humorous pieces from countries as far-flung as Ecuador, Iceland and Mongolia. The British authors include Saki, Somerset Maugham, P.G.Wodehouse, and rather oddly Harold Nicholson; and the American authors, starting of course with Mark Twain, include Sinclair Lewis, Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, Ludwig Bemelmans, Erskine Caldwell and Langston Hughes. And I must not forget Damon Runyon, who is represented by one of his classical Broadway pieces about Harry the Horse, Little Isadore, and other guys and dolls. I am glad to report that Runyon's more-than-somewhating survives translation into German surprisingly well.

Mounted Lions

It is odd and wonderful what different conclusions different people can draw from the same facts. A few days ago I was watching on television, together with my four-year-old daughter, some scenes from the very excellent show given by the Moscow State Circus. The number we were watching was one in which four patient horses trot round the ring with lions standing on their backs. I was idly wondering how the trainers prevented the horses from being frightened of the lions, and how the lions were prevented from taking a bite out of the horses, and even more fruitlessly meditating whether there was some moral about peaceful co-existence to be drawn from the scene.

Then my daughter threw a completely new light on the subject. "Daddy" she said, "look at those clever lions riding on the horses without holding on." I can find no moral to this tale.

Five-Letter Word

The fact that a certain arrangement of letters, harmless in one language, can have quite a different meaning in another, is always a cause for quiet amusement for observant travellers. A case in point is a new type of toothpaste which recently came on to the Swiss market with the magnificent name of "Drab". A year or two ago I drew attention in this column to a new brand of cigarettes marketed in Democratic Germany called, believe it or not, "Muck". I would love to tell you the name of a new brand of after-shave lotion which I just discovered in the shops here; but perhaps I had better not, for it is a short explosive word which even Lady Chatterley's gamekeeper did not get around to using.

No Homework

I think I am probably as patient and long-suffering as the next man, and in the past when students of the English language in the GDR wrote to us and asked the meaning of some word or phrase used in GERMAN REPORT which they could not find in their dictionaries (not the sort of word mentioned above, please), I have tried to give them the information they wanted. But last week a couple of bright young pupils from an East Berlin school wandered into the office and asked very politely for help in doing their English homework. This is too much.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III, Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.